

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace original drawing sheets with the replacement drawings sheets submitted concurrently with this paper. Each replacement sheet is appropriately labeled "Replacement Sheet" and does not introduce any new matter. The amendments to the drawings are explained in detail in the Remarks section of this paper.

Remarks

Claims 1, 3, and 6-17 were pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for his review of the pending claims. The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6-8, and 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,703) in view of Arcaro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,902,643).

In this paper, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, and 16, added new claims 18-24, and canceled claim 17 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4, and 5 were previously canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 6-16, and 18-24 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the presently pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because of minor informalities. Applicants have submitted corrected drawings sheets (each of which is appropriately labeled "Replacement Sheet") along with this paper to correct the informalities noted in the Office Action. As shown in the corrected drawing sheets, reference 118 of Figure 1 has been corrected to point to the top side of the overcoat sheet, reference 106 has been changed to reference 106' in Figure 2, reference number 2021 has been changed to reference number 202' in Figure 3, and reference 106' now points to the printed medium illustrated in Figure 5. In addition, reference 292 has been

changed to reference 92 in Figure 3, reference 921 has been changed to 92' in Figure 3, and reference 131 has been added to Figures 2-4. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for the same minor informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that the above-described amendments to the drawings and the specification overcome the objection to the specification. Accordingly, the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 15 because of an informality related to dependency. Applicants have amended claim 15 to correct the informality. Therefore, the objection should be withdrawn. Claim 16 has also been amended herein solely to change its dependency from claim 15 to claim 14.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended "printed roll" to recite "heated roll" in claim 9. The "heated roll" has proper antecedent basis in claim 8, from which claim 9 depends. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action does not set forth a rejection of claim 9 based on prior art. Therefore, it is believed that claim 9 recites subject matter that is allowable over the prior art of record and an express indication of such is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6-8 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,703) in view of Arcaro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,902,643). Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection with respect to claims 1, 3, 6-8, and 10-16.

A. Independent Claim 1

Applicants have amended independent claim 1, which now recites:

1. A printing device comprising:
 - a heated roll;
 - a first transport mechanism that moves a printed side of a printed medium against the heated roll;
 - a backing roll that forms a nip with the heated roll, the backing roll being adjustable for changing a distance between the heated roll and the backing roll;
 - a means for supplying a separate sheet to the nip;
 - a second transport mechanism that moves the printed medium to the nip such that the printed medium passes through the nip and the overcoat sheet is fused to the printed side of the printed media.
- (Emphasis added.)

The amendment is fully supported in the specification. See, e.g., Figures 1-4 and paragraphs 0022, 0025, and 0027 of Applicants' specification.

Pearson and Arcaro, considered either alone or together, do not teach or suggest "the backing roll being adjustable for changing a distance between the heated roll and the backing roll" as recited in amended claim 1. In the Office Action, the Examiner relies upon reference number 30 of Pearson to reject the backing roll recited in claim 1. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Pearson of reference number 30 being adjustable for changing a distance between the heated roll and the backing roll. The alleged combination of Arcaro with Pearson does not cure this deficiency of Pearson. Therefore, the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn.

B. Independent Claims 8 and 14

Applicants have amended independent claims 8 and 14. Claim 8 as amended recites:

8. A device for supplying an overcoat sheet to a printed medium comprising:
a heated roll;
a backing roll that forms a nip with the heated roll;
a transport mechanism that moves the printed medium through the nip and a first side of a printed medium against the heated roll; and
a supply mechanism that provides a separate overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium at or adjacent the nip, the second side of the printed medium including printed ink;
wherein the overcoat sheet is fused or attached to the second side of the printed medium at least in part by the heat provided from the heated roll;

wherein the printed medium thermally contacts the heated roll only subsequent to the printed ink having been applied to the printed medium.
(Emphasis added.)

Claim 14 as amended recites:

14. A method for applying a sheet to a printed medium comprising:
providing a printed medium including a first side and a second side, an overcoat sheet, a heated roll, and a backing roll, wherein the heated roll and backing roll form a nip through which the printed medium travels;
transporting the printed medium to the nip formed between the heated roll and the backing roll such that the heated roll heats the first side of the printed medium;
providing a separate overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium at or adjacent the nip, the second side of the printed medium including printed ink; and
drying the printed ink and attaching or fusing the overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium;
wherein the printed medium thermally contacts the heated roll only subsequent to the printed ink having been applied to the printed medium.

(Emphasis added.)

The amendments are fully supported in the specification. See, e.g., Figures 1-5.

Pearson and Arcaro, considered either alone or together, do not teach or suggest “wherein the printed medium thermally contacts the heated roll only subsequent to the printed ink having been applied to the printed medium” as recited in amended claims 8 and 14. In the Office Action, the Examiner relies upon reference number 28 of Pearson to reject the heated roll recited in claims 8 and 14. However, as shown in the sole figure of Pearson, a print medium must first contact and be heated by reference number 28 before ink is deposited on the printed medium by printhead 16. Therefore, Pearson does not teach or suggest “wherein the printed medium thermally contacts the heated roll only subsequent to the printed ink having been applied to the printed medium.”

The alleged combination of Arcaro with Pearson does not cure this deficiency of Pearson. According to the Office Action, “the heated roller 105 in Arcaro et al

would take the positional place of backing roller 30 in Pearson.” Office Action, page 7. However, in this asserted combination of Pearson and Arcaro, the heated roller 105 cannot be relied upon to reject both “wherein the printed medium thermally contacts the heated roll only subsequent to the printed ink having been applied to the printed medium” and “a transport mechanism that moves the printed medium through the nip and a first side of a printed medium against the heated roll,” where the second side of the printed medium is the printed side. (Emphasis added.) In the alleged combination of Pearson and Arcaro, only the print side of the print medium could possibly be facing the heated roll 105. For at least these reasons, the rejection of independent claims 8 and 14 should be withdrawn.

C. The Dependent Claims are Patentable

The rejection of dependent claims 3, 6, 7, 9-13, 15, and 16 should be withdrawn at least because of the respective dependencies of these claims from independent claim 1, 8, or 14.

D. The New Claims Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Applicants have added new dependent claims 18-23, each of which depends from either independent claim 1 or 8. New independent claim 24 has also been added. The newly added claims are thought to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons given above with respect to the original claims. The new claims also recite independently patentable subject matter. Therefore, examination and allowance of the newly added claims is respectfully requested.

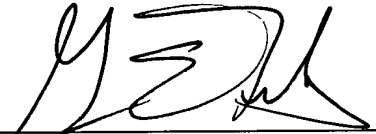
Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes any fee due has been addressed in the accompanying transmittal charging Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200400266-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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